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**Sheriff Everett S. Rice**

**RECEIVED Pinellas County Sheriff's Office**

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April 17, 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 00-32/

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing you on behalf of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in Pinellas County, Florida to express our concern about the FCC's intension to auction 50 MHz of spectrum in the 4940-4990 MHz (4.9 GHz) band, rather than allocating this critically needed spectrum to public safety for new broadband public safety applications.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is a comprehensive and accredited law enforcement agency serving the most densely populated county in Florida, with an average of 3,111 persons per square mile. We presently have 890 certified Deputies and 800 certified Correctional Officers. This highly progressive agency provides services to many of the cities located within the County. We have been a recognized leader in technology with Mobile data since 1975, A.F.I.S. (Automated Fingerprint Identification System), and presently are exploring Facial Recognition and the soon to be available 700MHz Public Safety Spectrum.

In 1996, the public safety community identified the need for 95 MHz of additional spectrum to meet our communications needs over the next ten years. Of this amount, the greatest need will be for advanced wideband and broadband technologies. To date, the FCC has allocated 24 MHz to public safety users in the new 746 MHz band. There are new emerging broadband technologies and applications appearing on the horizon that will require significantly wider bandwidths.

Solutions such as personal and vehicular area networks can wirelessly integrate a variety of existing and future devices to provide a safer environment for our deputies. These include image and video cameras and viewers, mobile data terminals and all their peripheral devices, palmtops, and wireless long range headsets, microphones, earpieces

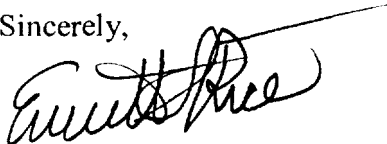
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and voice recognition to allow complete hands-free operation. Very large data and image files can be rapidly and wirelessly transferred within Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN), enabling images/fingerprints of wanted or missing persons, video clips of robberies, maps and layouts to be downloaded into police vehicle mobile computers as they leave the precinct. This same technology will also allow wireless uploads of videos, images and reports from the police vehicle to the command center or precinct. WLAN technology will also enable command centers to employ full motion video for remote controlled robotics in terrorist and other highly dangerous operations, and monitoring officers or suspects in officer assistance and high risk situations to allow on scene decision making and assistance based on video transmissions. This technology would allow real time transmission of video and imagery from surveillance helicopters to command centers.

Although unlicensed consumer oriented broadband technologies are on the horizon in the nearby 5 GHz band, public safety agencies cannot rely on unlicensed spectrum for our mission critical applications. We must have dedicated spectrum and systems that assure the safety of our personnel via immediate priority access, uninterrupted transmissions, and guaranteed coverage and reliability. The proximity of this unlicensed band to the proposed public safety 4.9 GHz allocation allows us to leverage such standards based broadband technologies and yet have the dedicated, reliable, secure and enhanced featured broadband solutions that we require for our mission critical applications.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office urges you and the Commission to recognize our broadband spectrum needs and allocate this much-needed 4.9 GHz band to the public safety community. Obtaining this spectrum is a critical step for public safety agencies such as ours to access these new advanced broadband solutions for our mission critical applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Everett S. Rice", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

EVERETT S. RICE, Sheriff  
Pinellas County, Florida

ESR/cs

Copy to:  
Office of the Secretary  
Ms. Magalie Roman Sallas  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554